



EFCCALERT!

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BUSINESS UNUSUAL

The EFCC's recovery efforts receive fillip through the non-conviction based asset forfeiture practice, result in recovery of humongous sums of monies and property illegally acquired

**Diezani:
Go Slow in UK**

**Stolen Funds:
Dangerous Debacle**

**Royal
Endorsement**



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LEXICON

Non-conviction Based Forfeiture

Though generally focused on recovery of assets kept outside of a country, the mechanism of non-conviction based asset forfeiture has been effectively domesticated by the EFCC, resulting in seizure and eventual forfeiture of assets linked to corrupt persons, without having to wait for the conclusion of a substantive case in court (if there is one). This legal practice has been instrumental in the EFCC's efforts to recover humongous amounts of money illegally acquired, as well as seize property believed to be proceeds of crime.

USAGE:

As the name literally suggests, non-conviction based asset forfeiture implies the procedure of recovering assets – monies, property, stocks, etc, believed to be proceeds of illegal activities, without having to first secure a conviction in court.

It works on the principle of guilty, with the opportunity to prove otherwise; if this is not shown, it results in the affirmation of guilt. Furthermore, it is not dependent on criminal conviction and can proceed whether the suspected/acclaimed owner is available or not to face criminal charges.

Invariably, court processes (like criminal charges) need not be served on the suspected/acclaimed owner, and no person(s) need to be first convicted before the recoveries are made.

Procedurally, a court will order that the assets in question be advertised in daily newspaper(s), with a call on whoever lays claim to the assets, to appear before the court and show cause why the assets should not be ordered forfeited, by proving that the assets were legally acquired. Failure to so prove, results in the “non-conviction forfeiture” of the assets.



Business Unusual

The EFCC's recovery efforts receive fillip through the non-conviction based asset forfeiture practice, result in recovery of humongous sums of monies and property illegally acquired

BY SEGUN ADEOYE

Even Patience, wife of former president, Goodluck Jonathan, will herself not believe the message that her lawyers, led by Mike Ozekhome, SAN, relayed to her following all the assurances that the monies – \$8,435,788.84 and N9,185,324,325.57 – traced to her by the EFCC, and which were under investigations for being tainted with illegal and shady dealings, will remain hers.

Ozekhome, who once advertised himself as the nemesis of the EFCC, boasting of being in possession of the magic wand to defeat the EFCC in any criminal case, must have assured her that there was “no shaking” – a common expression in local parlance for victory.

However, when the gavel of Justice Mojisola Olatoregun of the Federal High Court, Ikoyi, Lagos finally came down, on July 1, 2019, it dropped with a heavy thump, sealing the fate of the monies, which were lodged in seven banks – First Bank of Nigeria, \$3,645,013.73; Skye Bank (now Polaris Bank), \$4,790,775.11; Fidelity Bank, N6,420,320,989.36; Ecobank, N1,311,953,648.22; Diamond Bank (now Access Bank), N276,728,247.18; Zenith Bank, N858,923,982.55; and Stanbic-IBTC, N317,397,458.26.

In a terse ruling, Justice Olatoregun, elevated the interim forfeiture order on the monies earlier granted on April 19, 2018 to final forfeiture.

The Judge ruled that: “There is no reason provided in the affidavit to convince the court or to show cause why the monies should not be forfeited to the Federal Government of Nigeria.

“There is no evidence to reasonably show, beyond doubts,

“There is no evidence to reasonably show, beyond doubts, that the monies were legitimately earned.”

that the monies were legitimately earned.”

Indeed, following an ex-parte motion filed by the EFCC on April 19, 2018 against Patience and five companies – Globus Integrated Service Limited; Finchley Top Homes Limited; AM-PM Global Network Limited; Pagmat Oil and Gas Limited and Magel Resort Limited, and several rounds of arguments and counter-arguments, Justice Olatoregun granted the request of the EFCC, for interim forfeiture. In granting the prayers of the EFCC, the trial judge further ordered that the EFCC should publish the order of interim forfeiture in a national newspaper, “so that whosoever has interest in the money should approach the court within 14 days to show cause why the money should not be permanently forfeited to the Federal Government of Nigeria”.

In line with the direction of the Court, the order of interim forfeiture was published, and subsequently, on October 29, 2018 the EFCC through its counsel, Rotimi Oyedepo, moved a motion for the final forfeiture of the monies.

Piqued with the decision of the Court, and perhaps the inability to prove the legitimacy of the funds, Patience, through her lawyer Ifedayo Adedipe, SAN, proceeded to the Lagos Division of the Court of Appeal, praying the Appellate Court, to set aside the order of interim forfeiture granted by the lower court.

But the Appellate Court, seeing no merit in the appeal,

dismissed it accordingly, urging the respondent to go and prove to the lower court, the legitimacy of the monies.

Still dissatisfied, Patience, in a desperate and spirited attempt to retain ownership of the monies, again proceeded to the Supreme Court, with the same prayers for the interim order to be set aside; but her legal team, met a brick-wall, as the Apex Court, on March 8, 2019 in a ruling made by a five-man panel, led by Justice Dattijo Muhammad, unanimously upheld the ruling of the lower court, and declined to set aside the interim order.

Following the final decision of the Supreme Court – the “final bus stop” of all criminal cases, Justice Olatoregun, gave the order of final forfeiture.

Diezani Wonder

She may still be “held up” in the United Kingdom where she has been, since the expiration of the Jonathan administration in 2015, in which she served as Minister of Petroleum Resources, yet the EFCC has continued to trace, and recover assets believed to be proceeds of crime allegedly perpetrated by Diezani Alison-Madueke.

For the EFCC, the investigation of this first female President of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries, OPEC, has been a case of the more you look, the more you see. With several criminal charges filed against her in Nigerian courts awaiting her repatriation or voluntary return to the country, the EFCC has continued with its investigations, and the discoveries have been eye-popping and jaw-dropping.

Justice Nicholas Oweibo, of the Federal High Court, Ikoyi, Lagos on July 5, 2019 granting the prayers of the EFCC, ordered the interim forfeiture of trinket boxes of jewellery and wristwatches – gold, silver and diamond, recovered in their pristine glories, worth about \$40million from her mansion located at Frederick Chiluba Street, Asokoro, an affluent suburb in Abuja, on October 2, 2015, ruled that “the order should be published in any national newspaper within 14 days for the respondent or anyone interested in the items to show cause why they should not be permanently forfeited to the Federal Government”, otherwise they will be so finally forfeited. Following the execution of the Court’s order, the countdown has begun. The items include: 419 bangles; 315 rings; 304 earrings;

267 necklaces; 189 wristwatches; 174 necklace and earrings; 78 bracelet; 77 brooches; 74 pendants; 48 necklaces; 44 necklace, bracelet, earring and ring; 32 necklace, earrings and rings; 30 pendants and earrings; 18 necklace and bracelet; 15 earrings and rings; 12 earrings, rings and bracelet; 11 cufflinks; six pendants, earrings and rings; five single earrings; five bracelets and earrings; three necklace and single earrings; three necklace and rings; three travel clocks; three brooches and cufflinks; two pendants and rings; bracelets, earrings and one ring; one bangle and earring; one necklace, ring and bracelet; one bangle, ring and brooch; four necklace, earring and two bracelets; one bangle and ring; one brooch, earring and necklace; two pairs of three earrings; and one customized Gold iPhone.

In the meantime, Justice Chuka Obiozor of the Federal High Court, Ikoyi, on July 10, 2019 ordered that a plot of land measuring 7,903.71 to 8,029.58 square meters designated as Plot 9, Azikiwe Road, Old GRA, in Port Harcourt, Rivers State, and traced to Diezani be finally forfeited to the Federal Government, as it was believed to be the proceeds of illegal activities.

Paris Club Refund

Efforts by the EFCC to recover the covertly diverted Paris Club Refund are yielding positive results with the final forfeiture of N1,442,384,857.80 – N1,222,384,857.84 traced to Melrose General Services Company Limited, and N220,000,000 traced to Wasp Networks Limited and Thebe Wellness Services.

Justice Olatoregun on April 27, 2018 ordered the final forfeiture to the Federal Government, following up on an earlier order of interim forfeiture issued on October 13, 2017.

In granting the prayers for interim order brought before the Court by Ekene Iheanacho, counsel for the EFCC, Justice Olatoregun further directed the EFCC to “publish the order in a national daily giving anyone interested in the funds 14 days to appear before the court to show cause why the funds should not be forfeited permanently”.

Having listened to various arguments and counter-arguments from parties laying claim to the fund, Justice Olatoregun held that in the interest of justice, the funds



Forfeited properties



should be forfeited permanently to the government, as the said company's could not convince the Court of the legitimacy of the funds.

The climax to the case, however, was on May 31, 2019 when a three-man panel including Justices Tijjani Abubakar, E. Tobi, and O.A. Obaseki-Adejumo affirmed the final forfeiture order of the lower court after dismissing the appeal brought by Melrose General Services as lacking in merit, further ordering the payment of N100,000 cost to the EFCC.

N49million Heist

The sum of N49 million contained in five 150kg sacks intercepted by operatives of the EFCC at the Kaduna International Airport, on March 14, 2017 were also ordered to be finally forfeited to the Federal Government on June 28, 2019.

The EFCC had after the interception of the money, approached Justice S.M. Shuaibu of the Federal High Court, Kaduna, for an order of interim forfeiture, which was granted, following which, notice was published in the newspaper for anyone laying claim to them to come forward and prove same and that they were legitimately obtained.

After the interim forfeiture order was granted, some persons had showed up, appearing in court to lay claim to the abandoned money.

However, the EFCC through its counsel, Joshua Saidi and Onyeka Ekweozor, filed a motion on notice, seeking for the final forfeiture.

The persons laying claim to the money, later filed a counter-affidavit against the EFCC's motion for the final forfeiture in suit No: FHC/KD/CS/32/17 between Oyebanji Olaitan Steve & others Vs EFCC.

The Court, thereafter, ordered for oral evidence to be taken, noting that there were conflicts in the various affidavits filed by the parties.

Subsequently, Justice Shuaibu, convinced that they could not prove their case, granted the EFCC's prayers for the final forfeiture, and dismissed the claims of ownership by the applicants.

Asmanu Plaza

Rasaq Momonu, Controller, Finance and Account, Kwara State Government House, has also lost ownership of the Asmau Plaza located at University Road, Tanke Area, Ilorin, Kwara State, which was traced to him as being proceeds of fraudulent financial transactions. While Momonu is facing money laundering charges

before Justice Babangana Ashigar of the Federal High Court, Ilorin, and is expected back in court on September 25, 2019, the EFCC through its counsel, Nnaemeka Omewa, approached Justice Sikiru Oyinloye of a Kwara State High Court sitting in Ilorin, on August 1, 2019 to seek for the final forfeiture of the plaza valued at about N150million.

Ruling on the application, Justice Oyinloye resolved all the issues canvassed for in favour of the EFCC, noting that the EFCC fulfilled all the necessary requirements.

Justice Oyinloye ruled that: "I have gone through the application brought by the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, I also sighted the hearing notice issued to the respondent in the suit, Rasaq Momonu. This Honourable Court is persuaded that he had been served with the Court Processes.

"The application brought by the EFCC is meritorious and granted; this Honourable Court hereby orders the final forfeiture of the landed property known as Asmau Plaza, Tanke Road, Ilorin, Kwara State to the Federal Government of Nigeria."

Musa Gidado, an EFCC operative involved in investigating Momonu in an affidavit, noted that as a civil servant with a monthly salary less than N100,000, "he cannot afford to build the house known as Asmau Plaza between 2010 and 2012."

Why asset forfeiture?

Aliyu Yusuf, acting Director, EFCC's Asset Forfeiture and Recovery Management Directorate describes assets as "anything valuable that can be traced to the illegal activities".

He says: "You cannot investigate economic and financial crimes without tracing assets and so what the EFCC does is to trace the assets in the course of investigations.

"Sections 28 and 29 of the EFCC Establishment Act give EFCC the powers to immediately trace assets in the course of investigation.

"So anything that can be linked to the stolen money is classified as assets, money or property, as long as it is valuable."

He adds that non-conviction based assets forfeiture is achieved irrespective of a guilty plea or conviction, and is usually targeted at the assets – the proceeds of the illegal activities. ■

Diezani: Go Slow in UK

When will the United Kingdom repatriate a former Minister of Petroleum Resources wanted in Nigeria to answer for criminal charges?

BY HABU WAYERI

The United Kingdom, UK's rather motionless steps to prosecute Diezani Alison-Madueke, a former Minister of Petroleum Resources, wanted in Nigeria for varied charges of money laundering, bribery and criminal diversion of state funds has become worrisome, says Ibrahim Magu, acting Chairman, Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC.



Magu with the visiting INTERPOL team

Diezani has been in the UK since 2015 shortly after the termination of the administration of a former president, Goodluck Jonathan, when the EFCC began investigating her.

Reluctance in international cooperation, Magu noted has also hampered the EFCC's efforts to repatriate another Petroleum Minister, Dan Etete, and Mohammed Adoke, a former Minister of Justice and

"There is the case of Diezani which has been going on for over four years and the amount involved is about \$2.4billion and no kobo [cent] has been recovered from overseas," he said.

"Though we have recovered some of the proceeds of the crime, we are still tracing others."

Magu noted this during a visit to the EFCC Head Office, Jabi, Abuja, by a team from the International Criminal Police Organization, INTERPOL, led by Sebastian Bley, INTERPOL's Coordinator on Anti-Corruption, July 24, 2019.

Attorney General of the Federation, wanted in Nigeria to stand trial for their roles in the Malabu oil scandal.

"Since they are Nigerians, we urge their 'new' countries of residence to either prosecute them or hand them over for prosecution," he said. "We are willing to cooperate with INTERPOL at all times, if there is anything other enforcement agencies cannot provide especially in financial crime, the INTERPOL is sure to get result here in EFCC." ■

Stolen Funds: Dangerous Debacle

The bottleneck in repatriation of monies stashed overseas is compounded by reluctance of foreign law enforcement agencies to assist

BY SEGUN ADEOYE

"The process of repatriating monies stashed abroad has been very frustrating and disappointing, yet we have done everything possible, gone out of our way to encourage our [foreign] sister agencies, but cooperation is almost nil," says Ibrahim Magu.

The EFCC Chair made the revelation while playing host to Dr. Joe Abah, Country Director of DAI Nigeria, who came on an interactive visit to the EFCC Head Office, Jabi, Abuja, July 25, 2019.



Magu with Dr Joe Abah

"We are willing to go outside this country to give evidence, and to share the intelligence that we have," he stresses, but only "the Swiss have been more cooperative", while "the others never disclose their findings", and are "very reluctant to get the proceeds repatriated".

"The next level in the corruption fight is promising, there is political will and we are going to be daring," he says, noting that President Muhammadu Buhari has remained unwavering in his mission of ensuring victory in the anti-

corruption crusade.

"We have been investigating a number of cases for over four years working with the Federal Bureau of Investigations, National Crimes Agency and even the Crown Prosecution Service," he says, "we have done everything possible, gone out of our way to encourage our [foreign] sister agencies, but except there is a third party involved there is no cooperation."

Commending the MacArthur Foundation and the DAI for their support of the anti-corruption crusade in Nigeria, he called for more support for the EFCC in all areas possible.

According to Abah, the visit was part of efforts aimed at further supporting the anti-corruption crusade in Nigeria. ■

Royal Endorsement

The First Class Monarch in Oyo, hosts officers of the EFCC Ibadan Zonal Office, gives counsel, commendations, and promise to rally traditional rulers against graft

BY JIDE JEGEDE//IBADAN

The Alaafin of Oyo, Oba Lamidi Olayiwola Adeyemi III opened the doors of his palace to officers of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC Ibadan Zonal Office on August 1, 2019, showering encomiums on the Commission, and taking a swipe at the 8th National Assembly for not confirming Ibrahim Magu as the substantive chairman of the anti-graft agency having assumed office on November 11, 2015.

“The eighth National Assembly tried, they did everything possible not to get (Ibrahim) Magu appointed. Why? It is because they have skeleton in their cupboard,” he told the delegation led by Friday Ebelo, Zonal Head that paid him the



courtesy visit.

While commending the efforts of the EFCC, the Royal Father further noted that the recent stories of recovered stolen funds in local and foreign currencies attested to the efficacy of the Commission under the leadership of Magu. He added that the Commission deserved the cooperation of all well-meaning Nigerians who desire a greater days ahead for the country.

He said: “We must encourage you. We must support you and cooperate with you, otherwise corruption will kill Nigeria. “The fear of EFCC is leading some looters to several parts of the world. But you are after them. You are getting them. There is no hiding place for them. “It our duty as traditional rulers to ensure that our children are taught [African] values from their young age.” ■

Executive Charge

Secretary to the EFCC pays a working visit to the South-South as part of moves to boost morale of staff

BY DELE OYEWALE//PORT HARCOURT

Secretary to the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, Ola Olukoyede on a two-day working visit to the Port Harcourt office of the anti-graft agency, in Rivers State, charged staff to remain dedicated to their duties and uphold the tenets of integrity and hard work in all their assignments.

Olukoyede, who was received by staff led by the Zonal Head, Abdulrasheed Bawa, on July 22, 2019, commended the staff for the facelift and impressive cleanliness of the office environment describing it as “the neatest office around”.

He stressed that “diligence and integrity remain the cornerstones of the work of the EFCC and staff are expected to exemplify those virtues”.



Secretary to the Commission, Ola Olukoyede (middle) addressing staff



Staff listen with rapt attention

“We will not tolerate acts of indiscipline and corruption,” he stressed.

While fielding questions from staff, he noted that welfare of staff was being looked into, stressing that there should be no choice area for any staff of the Commission to work.

“Transfer has become a necessity. Everybody should be ready for it. As long as you are in EFCC, you must be ready to be transferred,” he said, noting that genuine cases would be looked into that may warrant reversal.

“Things will get better,” he assured. ■

Fingers Burnt

A businessman realizes the folly of standing by his 'not guilty' plea, and so changes his plea to 'guilty' in a N30million fraud trial

BY JAMILU SALE//MAIDUGURI

Usman Idris just had to make a u-turn and rescind his decision to go the whole hog of the judicial system, when he realized that it was a water-tight evidence that the EFCC had gathered against him.

The businessman who is the Managing Director of Influential Investment Company Limited initially pleaded "not guilty" to the charges against him when he was arraigned before Justice Fadawu Umar of the Borno State High Court, Maiduguri, on April 15, 2019 for criminal diversion of fund.

He was alleged to have defrauded Abubakar Baba, who invested as much as N30million in the investment company. In the course of the trial, counsel for the EFCC, Benjamin Manji presented three witnesses and tendered three exhibits. Sighting that there was no way he could get off the hook, Idris approached the EFCC for a plea bargain.



Subsequently, the prosecution substituted the initial two-count charge with an amended three-count charge, dated and filed on July 17, 2019 to which Idris and Influential Investment Company Limited pleaded "guilty".

Justice Umar, thus convicted him accordingly and ruled that: "On count one, you are hereby sentenced to one year imprisonment with an option of fine in the sum of N200,000.

"On count two, you are hereby sentenced to one year imprisonment with an option of N500,000.

"On count three you are hereby sentenced to one year imprisonment with an option of N300,000.

"Equally, the company Influential Investment Limited Company is hereby fined the sum of N200,000 on each of the three counts." ■

Greedy Councillor

A councillor in one of the local government areas in Sokoto, is in EFCC net along with a director and two others for diverting workers' salaries

BY MUAZU LIMAN//SOKOTO

Abubakar Maigishiri, Councilor, Social Welfare, Tureta Local Government Area, LGA; Tukur Yabo, Director of Works and Housing, Tureta LGA; Danjuma Ibrahim, a Cashier with Ministry of Social Welfare and Community Development, Sokoto State, and Sambo Abdullahi, a staff of the same Ministry are in the news for the very wrong reasons.

The four of them were arrested on July 25, 2019 following investigation of a petition alleging that some employees of Sokoto Marshal Corps/ Neighborhood Watch Operatives of Tureta Local Government were not paid their April, May and June salaries.

They were alleged to have conspired to divert to their pockets N980,000 meant for salaries of the employees.

Investigations further revealed that Yabo conspired with Maigishiri, and the two others to share among themselves, the salaries of 15 Neighbourhood employees leaving them unpaid.



In the course of interrogation, they confessed to their roles in the criminal diversion of the salaries. The sum of N300,000 being part of the money diverted, has been recovered from them.

They will soon be charged to court. ■

Betrayer

A friend betrays the trust reposed in him, fraudulently transfers money from the friend's bank account without his authorization

BY GBENGA ADEWOYE//ILORIN

Hammed Lanre just reminds you of Brutus in the play, Julius Caesar written by foremost playwright, William Shakespeare. The classical expression, *Et u Brutus*, aptly applies to the 41-year-old civil engineer who is currently serving jail term at the Mandala Prison, Ilorin, Kwara State.

Hammed Muritala had given Lanre, his supposed friend his phone to help download the app for Facebook, the popular social media platform.

Unknown to him, Lanre had an ulterior motive, offering to help him download the app.

Having laid hold of the phone, Lanre searched through it and obtained his friend's bank's Personal Identification Number, PIN. He used same to transfer money from Muritala's Stanbic



IBTC bank account to his account with Bet9ja, a sports betting website, without his consent.

In all, he illegally withdrew N540,000.

Operatives of the EFCC, thereafter, located and arrested him in Lagos. He was first arraigned before Justice Mahmood Abdulgafar of a Kwara State High Court on July 8, 2019 on a two-count charge to which he pleaded "not guilty".

However, realizing the strength of the evidence gathered against him, he approached the EFCC for a plea bargain, which led to him being re-arraigned on an amended charge to

which he pleaded "guilty".

Thereafter, Justice Abdulgafar sentenced him to one year in prison to commence from May 30, 2019, the day he was arrested. ■

Slippery Sule

A fraudulent deal to supply foodstuff for corps members lands a fraudster in court

BY KAMILU GEBI//KANO

Abubakar Suleiman will forever rue the day he concocted in his imagination a contract to feed members of the National Youth Service Corps in Jigawa, and used same to obtain N13.8million from his victim as a sponsor of the contract, in the guise that he will pay her 40 per cent of the profit.

He further cunningly collected at various other times money he claimed was to be used to render some other services and purchases he claimed he needed to make.

Alas! There was no such contract, neither did he make any purchases for which he collected money for.

He was arraigned before Justice Dije Aboki of the Kano State High Court on July 25, 2019 on a one-count charge of criminal misappropriation of fund.

He pleaded "not guilty" to the charge.

While adjourning to October 21, 2019 for "hearing", Justice Aboki granted him bail in the sum of N5million and two reliable sureties in like sum, one of whom should either be of Grade Level 15 and above in the Kano State Civil Service. In the alternative one of the sureties should have a landed property within the jurisdiction of the Court and is expected to deposit the title document with the court registry. ■



Grandpa is a *Yahoo Boy*

For a 65-year-old internet fraudster involved in an N86million romance scam, it is game over

BY DELE OYEWALE//PORT HARCOURT

What on earth will make a 65-year-old man to engage in internet fraud, when he is supposed to be a role model in honesty and integrity to his grandchildren? In an age where yahoo yahoo (online fraud) seems to be mainly associated with youths drowned in the get-rich syndrome, Igweneme Moses is no doubt an aberration.

He was arraigned on July 23, 2019 before Justice A.T. Mohammed of the Federal High Court sitting in Port Harcourt, Rivers State on a four-count charge bordering on romance scam.

Specifically, he was docked for defrauding a Swiss of \$240,700 (about N86,652,000) faking love and proposal of marriage to his victim - Chantal Meadery.



His road to infamy began when the EFCC received a petition from the Attorney General of the Federation and Minister of Justice on behalf of the Switzerland Government, alleging that its national, Meadery was a victim of a two-man syndicate comprising Igweneme and his daughter, Blessing, currently in hiding.

It was alleged that the two of them ensnared their victim having met on the dating app, bumble.com, by cooking up several emergencies and various other crisis situation

needing financial intervention, which made Meadery to send them \$240,700 in 16 money transfers.

Investigations showed that the syndicate had also defrauded other foreigners through their fraudulent activities on dating sites. ■

Pension Crook

An ad-hoc staff recruited to verify pensioners in Enugu is caught diverting pensioners' funds using names of fake pensioners

BY CHRIS OLUKA // ENUGU

It may have become a worn out cliché, but the saying that every day is for the thief and one day is for the owner of the farm remains true as ever.

This aptly describes the fate that has now befallen Akpudili Anayo, who was on April 8, 2019 convicted by Justice K.I. Okpe of an Enugu State High Court for a N13million pension fraud, having pleaded guilty, and was on July 22, 2019 sentenced to six years in prison.

The Enugu Zonal Office of the EFCC had charged him with forgery, impersonation, conspiracy and stealing, following a petition from the Enugu State government accusing him of fraud.

The State Executive had on May 3, 2017 directed that the May, June and July 2017 pension/salaries of the state pensioners and three other agencies of the state government be paid by cheques after physical verification.



However, at the end of the verification exercise, Anayo, an ad-hoc staff for the verification exercise, in charge of the system computing the names of the verified civil servants in the state, conspired and used the bank accounts of three fake pensioners: Ngene Somtochukwu, Ani Ifeyinwa and Patience Chimezie to divert funds meant for the pension and salaries of the civil servants. ■

Sour Deal

After collecting N10million to supply a Mercedes Benz ML350, a supposed car dealer reneges on his promise, lands in trouble

BY KASIMU YAHAYA//KADUNA

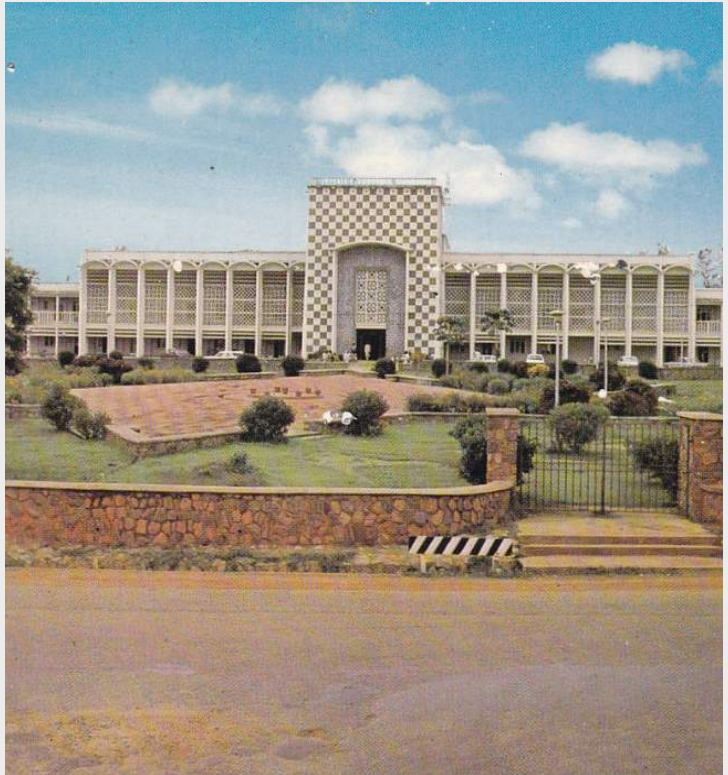
Isa Bello of Dudu Motors, Kaduna will no doubt regret that day, October 8, 2013 when he entered into a business deal with Suleiman Datti to supply his auto company with a Mercedes Benz ML350 (2012 model) to be imported from the United States at the cost of \$28,000 (about N10,080,000).

According to Bello, while he has since paid Datti the money, six years after, he has reneged on his own side of the deal, failing to supply the vehicle and at the same time, refusing to refund the money despite several appeals.

Invariably, he approached the EFCC to come to his aid through a petition dated November 11, 2017. Following investigations, Datti was found culpable and arraigned before Justice Mohammed Tukur of the Kaduna State High Court, on July 17, 2019 on a one-count charge of criminal breach of trust.

He pleaded "not guilty" to the charge.

Justice Tukur granted him bail in the sum of N5million with one surety in like sum, who must be a blood relation or close friend and must own a landed property within the jurisdiction of the court, and adjourned to October 25, 2019. ■



Cunning Youth

A polytechnic graduate gets caught for a N1.2million online fraud

BY MARY ORUGONYA//IBADAN

He should have known better. Olabode Oyaremi ought to have deployed his insurance knowledge for a good cause, but sadly, he did not, instead deployed it to internet fraud, and now he has to pay dearly for it.

The 24-year-old Insurance graduate of the Polytechnic Ibadan, Oyo State, is already getting to know the in-and-out of the Agodi Prison, where he is currently serving a four-month jail term for fraudulently representing himself as Angelina Kimberly, an American nurse, to perpetrate internet fraud.

He was arrested on March 23, 2019 at Kolapo Ishola Estate, Ibadan, by operatives of the EFCC, and brought before Justice



Patricia Ajoku of the Federal High Court sitting in Ibadan, on a one-count charge of cybercrime, to which he pleaded "guilty" following a plea bargain.

He was convicted on July 15, 2019 and along with the jail sentence, he was ordered to restitute the sum of \$3,600 (about N1,296,000) to his victim, through the Federal Government of Nigeria. He also forfeited his Apple laptop, Toshiba laptop, one Samsung Galaxy Luna Pro, one iPhone, one Nokia phone, one Apple watch, and one Smile 4G

internet modem to the federal government, being items he bought with the proceeds of his fraudulent act. ■



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